



Cattle-During

Plan

Disasters can take many forms, from hurricanes, flooding, electrical storms, high wind, extreme hot/cold, blizzards, tornadoes, wildfires, etc. It is important during an emergency that you follow the directions of emergency personnel whether to evacuate yourself and your animals or whether to shelter in place. Sometimes sheltering in place is the only option for our farm animals. Before disaster strikes, decide what the best place to keep your animals. This could mean keeping them in the barn or outside depending upon the type of disaster and the facilities you have available on your farm.

If not already done and time permits, sign up to receive critical alerts by checking your town or county Office of Emergency Management.

Prepare

Be aware that prior to and during a disaster, the reactions of cattle can change and will be based on fear and instinct. Cattle can become frightened by loud noises, flashes of lightening, increasing water levels and falling/moving debris. Animals may be more difficult to move and normal calm cattle can become excitable and dangerous. If you plan to move your animals inside a barn or to another pasture, it is important to do this before the emergency, if at all possible.

Gather up your "Go Bag" http://animalemergency.nj.gov/documents/Livestock_Go_Bag.pdf with the necessary records and enough food, water and bedding for at least three days.

During a disaster, storm conditions and updates are given by emergency personnel. Listen to alerts regarding weather and disaster information, along with official instructions and announcements from emergency management by checking alerts on your phone or TV or by listening to a battery powered radio if the electric is out.

Act

1. Listen and follow announcements by emergency personnel to learn when to evacuate and if there are special evacuation routes for livestock.
2. If you plan to evacuate your cattle, try to leave early to ensure the safety of your cattle and ease your stress.
3. Call your preplanned destination to make sure the site is still available and not affected by the disaster. Otherwise follow the directions of the emergency personnel if a previous site has not been selected.
4. If you plan to shelter your cattle in place, leave them in the preselected area appropriate for the disaster type. Leave enough hay for 48-72 hours. You can feed your animals its allotted

daily grain before you leave. It is not recommended to dispense large amounts of grain at one time to cattle because it can cause digestive upsets and bloat. Fill up water containers so your animals have enough water for 48-72 hours. Do not rely on automatic watering systems in case the power is lost.